

Dear Mr. Greider,

5/6/79

Your Against the Grain piece today is excellent if of less length and detail than the subject justifies.

From my own work I know that there is no protection in the supposed need for the Attorney General's approval. What AG stands against the FBI or CIA? Who knows what NSA is doing and has done? Where does any AG get the information he needs for decision?

I have and have studied a number of such records. The FBI tells the AG only what it wants him to know and if necessary on a basis that amounts to political blackmail, leaving him virtually no real alternative.

Domestic intelligence operations do not really depend on the intrusions that would be sanctified by the charter. They have been going on for years, with cozy deals with the local authorities, phone companies, banks, postal employees, etc.

What is not realized is the extent to which this snooping has interfered with the lives and futures of many ordinary people whose beliefs were outside official approval. Or the misuses made of the "information," not uncommonly greatly distorted if not as is within my experience actually fabricated.

Does anyone really believe that there now is any control on what can be included in what is claimed to be a criminal investigation? Or what then happens? There are, for example, not fewer than five FBI files in three different places in which I am filed under bank robberies. This came about from some form of telephone intrusion that had nothing at all to do with any bank robbery.

Do you know of any present check against what the CIA did to Dr. King within the U.S., getting messages given to him, apparently from his own pockets, names of persons he was to phone and their numbers, even an address he was to go to in Washington? And secretly spreading the word that he was "Chicom" of all things!

The problem is much more serious than your excellent piece says.

These dedicated people who do wrong believe it is right and urgently required by what they regard as "national security." They really do fear, and no triviality like a Constitution is going to impede what they regard as patriotic duty.

A little more reporting of these abuses would make for a lot more real security.

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg